**The Judgment of a Fallen Nation is Certain!**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Nahum 3:1-5**

**Sunday Afternoon**

**July 28, 2024**

**1 Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs. 2 The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels, Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots! 3 Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, Countless corpses--They stumble over the corpses—**

**4 Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries, And families through her sorceries. 5 "Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts…**

Saints, the message of Nahum concerns the impending destruction of Nineveh. The Lord’s word to the Assyrians is dire:

**Nahum 2:13**

"Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts, "I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more."

God was obviously angry with the Ninevites, and Nahum reveals why.

Nineveh had long been an enemy of Judah and Israel, the people of God. In 722 B.C.

The Assyrians defeated the northern kingdom of Israel, destroying its capital, Samaria. In 701 B.C., the Assyrians nearly conquered Jerusalem, the capital of Judah.

The text of Nahum provides additional clues regarding God’s anger with the Ninevites. Nahum 3:1 says,

**Nahum 3:1**

“Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!”

Saints, Nineveh was a city of violence, known for its brutal treatment of those it conquered.

The Assyrians were notorious for amputating hands and feet, gouging eyes, and skinning and impaling their captives.

The final verse of Nahum’s book emphasizes the violence of the Assyrians in the form of a rhetorical question:

**Nahum 3:19**

“Who has not felt your endless cruelty?”

Another reason for God’s anger against Nineveh was its extreme pride, implied in Nahum 3:8.

**Nahum 3:8**

“Do you think you’re superior to Egyptian Thebes, proudly invincible on the River Nile, Protected by the great River, walled in by the River, secure?”

The pride of Nineveh may have been due in part to its wealth and power.

One account reveals, that in Sennacherib's day the wall around Nineveh was 40 to 50 feet high. It extended for 4 kilometers along the Tigris River and for 13 kilometers around the inner city. The city wall had 15 main gates.

Each of the gates was guarded by stone bull statues. Both inside and outside the walls, Sennacherib created parks, a botanical garden, and a zoo.

He built a water-system containing the oldest aqueduct in history at Jerwan, across the Gomel River”

Jesus taught,

**Matthew 26:52**

“For all who take the sword will perish by the sword”

This truth is vividly predicted and fulfilled in the case of Nineveh, whose warlike people were known for their brutal treatment of enemies.

Despite the military might of Nineveh, they were no match for the God of heaven.

Nineveh’s downfall was greeted as good news by Judah

**Nahum 1:15**

15 Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.

Saints, all who had suffered under their merciless rule God delivered!

**Nahum 3:15-19**

15 There the fire will devour you, The sword will cut you off; It will eat you up like a locust. Make yourself many--like the locust! Make yourself many--like the swarming locusts! 16 You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away.

17 Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they are is not known. 18 Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria; Your nobles rest in the dust. Your people are scattered on the mountains, And no one gathers them.

19 Your injury has no healing, Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap their hands over you, For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?

Saints, this calamity didn’t contrive overnight it was decades of decades of God’s Grace and Longsuffering before eventually Nineveh was conquered and utterly destroyed!

**Jonah 1:1-2**

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

**Jonah 3:1-4**

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.

4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Saints, what Nineveh did 150 years prior to their utter destruction as we read in Nahum, God did what His nature allows Him to be is that He is a God of Mercy!

**Jonah 3:5-10**

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? 10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Saints, is:

**America the Modern City of Nineveh?**

Can this country parallel in the eyes of God mentioned in:

**Jonah 1:2**

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Saints, we need to look at America in 2024 and see if this is so!

**1.** **Since Roe V. Wade in 1973 America has slaughtered, butchered and murdered 70,000,000 human babies through abortion!**

**Exodus 20:13**

"You shall not murder”

**2.** **On June 26, 2015 Obama spearheaded the movement of the homosexual agenda and the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of all 50 states in our nation to allow same sex marriage. This ruling over ruled the people’s right to vote on this matter!**

**Leviticus 20:13**

“If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.”

**Romans 1:26-28**

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

**3.** **Lawlessness and Civil Unrest**

Throughout our land there is now terrorist attacks, cities being a blazed with fire, killing of Peace Officers, racial tension and political corruption!

**1 Timothy 1:9-11**

9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

All of this paints a scenario that is being played out before us as the United States has rejected the Lord.

He has allowed our enemies to rise up in fierce anger (think of the hatred towards us in the Islamic world). God has darkened our understanding (as He promised in Romans 1:21).

**Romans 1:21**

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Saints, God has sent us Prophets and the Church has shunned them and has looked the other way!

**Photo Slide of the Prophets>**

Our wisdom as a nation, which can only come from the Lord, has departed from us.

This causes our leaders to make unwise decisions (such as the Iranian Nuclear Deal).

Without God’s wisdom, this Word from the Lord, we perish as a people. It’s important to remember the sequence here:

Saints, here are the final steps of a nation that’s about to collapse it’s found in:

**Psalm 124**

1 "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side," Let Israel now say--2 "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, When men rose up against us, 3 Then they would have swallowed us alive, When their wrath was kindled against us;

4 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, The stream would have gone over our soul; 5 Then the swollen waters Would have gone over our soul." 6 Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us as prey to their teeth. 7 Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; The snare is broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

**1. A Nation Forgets God**

**2. An Enemy is Raised Up**

**3. A Trap is Set**

**4. The Nation who has forgotten God flies blindly into the trap and is ensnared. There is no escape.**

**5. The fowler (the enemy) comes at some point in the future…not necessarily on the day the trap is laid…and seizes their prey…and completely devours that nation.**

**6. That nation is swept away by the flood of God’s judgment. It is swallowed alive and whole.**

**7. It’s destruction is certain.**

After Nineveh’s destruction, the site was hidden for some time.

It was not until 1842 that modern archaeologists rediscovered its location in modern-day Iraq.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**